

CEQ 3

Phil / Hatch
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Interagency Action on CEI Petitions on National Assessment on Climate Change

Background

- The Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI) recently issued petitions under the Federal Data Quality Act (FDQA) to three federal agencies requesting that the government cease disseminating the National Assessment on Climate Change and the U.S. Climate Action Report (because Chapter 6 of the CAR summarizes the National Assessment).
- The three petitions cite the provisions of the FDQA and each agency's information quality guidelines under the Act. The FDQA compels OMB to issue government-wide guidelines that provide guidance to Federal agencies for ensuring the quality, objectivity, utility, and integrity of information disseminated by Federal agencies. Under the law, each agency must issue its own information quality guidelines that include "administrative mechanisms allowing affected persons to seek and obtain correction of information maintained and disseminated by the agency," if such information does not comply with the OMB guidelines.
- Agency responses to the petitions are due on different dates (either 90 or 60 days after receipt of the request for correction). Note that these dates are goals and are not binding:
 - EPA – received CEI petition on February 10, 2003. EPA's goal under its guidelines is to respond within 90 days (e.g., May 10th).
 - NOAA – received CEI petition on February 19, 2003. Under NOAA's guidelines, a response would be due around April 19, 2003.
 - OSTP – received CEI petition on February 20, 2003. Under OSTP's guidelines, a response would be due around April 20, 2003.
- At yesterday's EPW hearing, Senator Inhofe noted his lawsuit against the Administration on the National Assessment (*Competitive Enterprise Institute (CEI), Inhofe, et al. v. Bush* (DC DC CV 00-02383)) and asked Governor Whitman if EPA would cease dissemination of the Climate Action Report. She did not respond to his request directly but noted that the National Assessment did not represent a product or policy of the US government and that Chapter 6 cited multiple data sources in addition to the National Assessment (e.g., the NAS 2001 report, IPCC documents).

Action Needed

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